

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTIONSELECTIVE CONTROL OF LIGNIN BIOSYNTHESIS IN  
TRANSGENIC PLANTS

The present invention provides methods of  
5 selectively controlling lignin biosynthesis in plants  
such that lignification is reduced or enhanced, as  
desired. The invention provides, for example, a method  
of reducing lignification in a vascular plant by  
ectopically expressing a nucleic acid molecule encoding  
10 an AGL8-like gene product in the plant, whereby  
lignification is reduced due to ectopic expression of the  
nucleic acid molecule. An AGL8-like gene product useful  
in the invention can have, for example, substantially the  
amino acid sequence of an AGL8 ortholog such as  
15 *Arabidopsis* AGL8 (SEQ ID NO:2).